

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 10 are amended and claims 11-13 are added.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to. By this Amendment, the specification and Figure 2 are amended to obviate the objection. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,421,327 to Morley et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,762,343 to Zutz. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 9 and 10 include the feature of the annular sealing body contacting the end face of the free axial end of the leg. In contrast, neither Morley nor Zutz teaches or suggests such contact between the annular sealing body and the leg.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Morley and Zutz does not suggest the features of claims 1, 9 or 10 and, therefore, rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is inappropriate. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,421,327 to Morley et al. "first embodiment" in view of Morley et al. "second embodiment" and U.S. Patent No. 5,762,343 to Zutz. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 9 and 10 include the feature of the annular sealing body contacting the end face of the free axial end of the leg. In contrast, neither Morley nor Zutz teaches or

suggests such contact between the annular sealing body and the leg.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the combinations of Morley and Zutz does not suggest the features of claims 1, 9 or 10 and, therefore, rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is inappropriate. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, the sealing body 4 of Zutz is vulcanized to the sliding ring 2 and there is an aperture 7 in the sliding ring 2 for better attaching the sealing body 4 to the sliding ring 2. In Zutz, it is not possible to move the sealing body 4 away from the sliding ring 2 without destroying the sealing body 4. The function of this sealing body 4 is completely different to the function of the sealing body of the invention or of Morley. Sealing body 4 of Zutz acts like a tension spring while the sealing body of Morley acts as a compression spring. Zutz's sealing body 4 must be vulcanized to the sliding ring 2 otherwise this system will not function properly. In the invention, it is possible to move the sealing body away from the sliding ring without destroying the sealing body.

The combination of Zutz and Morley will not lead to a recess at the end of the leg with an undercut, but, if anything, to a hole in the leg of the sliding ring. However, it would not have been obvious to make a hole in the sliding ring of Morley because such a hole could lead to problems with fit between the leg and the shaft it contacts. Morley does not disclose a recess in the leg at the free axial end extending from the radial outer surface to the radial inner surface and also having an undercut. Zutz also does not disclose such a recess, Zutz only discloses holes in the leg. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Zutz and Morley he would not result in a recess at the

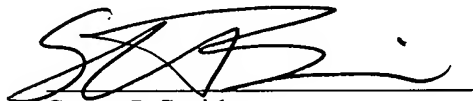
free axial end of the leg of the sliding ring and a undercut at this free axial end.

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application, including claims 1 and 3-13, is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of the application would be advanced by a personal interview, he is invited to telephone undersigned counsel and arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stuart I. Smith
Reg. No. 42,159
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 344-4683
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

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